

BRIERLEY HILL
URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT

on the Works of the

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

for 1946.

NORMAN V. HEPPLE,
Medical Officer of Health.

H. J. PARKER,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council :

Councillor H. Edwards, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor S. Woodhouse, C.C.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Councillor G. C. Campbell.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor S. Wood.

Councillors L. Bower, B.Sc., D. Brookes, H. Edwards, J.P. (ex-officio), D. Guttery, C. F. Moore, H. C. Roberts, B.Sc., Mrs. A. Ryder, A. Workman, J.P.

BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

*N. V. Hepple, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

(Also Assistant County Medical Officer of Health for Staffordshire and Medical Superintendent, West Midlands Joint Hospital Board).

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

*H. J. Parker, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I., A.M.I.P.C., Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

*J. W. Billingham, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector.

*C. H. Crawford, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector.

*W. Whitfield, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., A.M.I.P.C., Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector.

Veterinary Inspector :

D. J. Anthony, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.

D. Howie, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.

Analyst :

E. V. Jones, Esq., County Buildings, Stafford.

Clerical Staff :

† N. Bellamy, L. Smith, D. A. Hulland, M. F. Robert,
B. D. Compson.

* Salary contribution made by Exchequer Grants.

† H.M. Forces.

BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1946.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BRIERLEY HILL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my ninth Annual Report on the work of your Public Health Department.

The Report is on similar lines to its predecessor, being condensed as much as possible in accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Health.

It will be seen from the information given that the health of the community has remained satisfactory during the year. The birth rate remains high, and the death rate is lower than last year. The main causes of death are the cardiovascular and other degenerative changes associated with ageing. An exception to this is the high number of deaths still due to tuberculosis. This is an infectious disease and therefore preventable. Adequate housing is one of the essentials for the removal of the disease from the community, and it is tragic that so many families will have to live under unsatisfactory conditions until the situation permits sufficient houses to be provided.

Figures are dry things to consider. It is only the imagination which can clothe them with the flesh and blood of the human conditions they represent.

I would thank the members of the Council, the Clerk and other Officers and the staff of the Department for their continued kindness and help during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

N. V. HEPPLER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics :—

Registrar General's estimate of population (mid. 1946)	46,190
Area (in acres)	5,932
Rateable Value (1st April, 1946)	£176,359
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1946-7	£687

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The principal industries of the district are Iron and Steel, Table and Decorative Glassware, Food, Enamel Holloware, Chain making, General Engineering, Bricks and Refractories, Building and Constructional Engineering.

During the year these industries were engaged in conversion from their war work to output for conditions of peace.

Many men have returned from the forces and have been re-absorbed into industry. Unemployment, practically speaking, does not exist. The Manager of the Brierley Hill Employment Exchange has kindly supplied figures which show that about 80 persons are on the books, 30 of these being disabled persons.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1946.

				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>		
Live Births :	Legitimate	...	...	886	...	470	...	416
	Illegitimate	...	...	40	...	17	...	23
	Total	...	...	926	...	487	...	439

Birth rate per 1,000 civilian population : 20.04.

				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>		
Still Births :	Legitimate	...	...	31	...	17	...	14
	Illegitimate	...	...	2	...	1	...	1
	Total	...	...	33	...	18	...	15

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births : 34.30.

						<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	493	243	250

Death rate per 1,000 civilian population : 10.67.

Comparability Factor.

The Registrar General has again found it impossible to supply this factor, which was used to make comparisons possible with death rates of other areas.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

				<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 total births.</i>
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	0	0.00
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	1	1.04
				—	—
				1	1.04
				—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	46.43
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	...	47.63
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	...	25.00
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	3
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	62

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

The Birth Rate of 20.04 shows a slight increase on that of 19.27 for the previous year. It is higher than the rate of 19.1 for England and Wales, but less than that of 21.3 for 148 towns of a comparable size. It is probably a temporary increase, due to the return of men from the forces.

Deaths.

The Death Rate of 10.67 is considerably lower than that for the previous year, 12.11. It compares with a rate for the whole country of 11.5 and for the smaller towns of 11.7.

The most frequent causes of death in order of importance numerically were Heart Disease, Cancer, Intra cranial Vascular Lesions, Bronchitis and Pulmonary Tuberculosis. These categories included 270 deaths, more than half the total number.

Natural Increase of Population.

The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 433.

Infantile Mortality.

43 children under one year of age died during the year.

This gives an infantile mortality rate of 46.3 per 1,000 live births, compared with a rate of 43 for the country as a whole, 37 for the town of comparable size and 34 for 1945.

Examination of the figures shows that most of the increase is in the groups of children over three months old, and that it is due to pneumonia chiefly.

The following table gives the ages at death of 40 of these children, about whom information was collected locally:—

Table I.

					<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Days	0—1	...	...	...	5	6	11
	—7	...	...	...	4	4	8
	—14	...	...	...	1	2	3
	—21	...	...	...	—	—	—
Months	—6	...	...	...	9	6	15
	—12	...	...	...	3	—	3
Total under one year					22	18	40

From this it will be seen that half of the deaths occur in the first fortnight after birth.

The causes of death can be classified as follows :—

Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Birth injury	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Lack of attention	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital deformities	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Maternal Mortality.

One maternal death occurred during the year, giving a Maternal Mortality Rate of 1.04 per 1,000 live births. This compares with a rate of 2.26 for 1945. Death was due to eclampsia.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN.

Table II.

Diseases.	1946		Total.
	Male.	Female.	
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	1	1
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	3	3
Diphtheria ...	2	—	2
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	13	16	29
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	4	2	6
Syphilitic diseases ...	—	—	—
Influenza ...	4	3	7
Measles ...	—	1	1
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
Acute infantile infective encephalitis...	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M)	—	—	—
and uterus (F) ...	1	4	5
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	7	4	11
Cancer of Breast ...	—	5	5
Cancer of all other sites ...	22	19	41
Diabetes ...	2	1	3
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	24	32	56
Heart Disease ...	48	42	90
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	3	7	10
Bronchitis ...	20	13	33
Pneumonia ...	15	6	21
Other respiratory diseases ...	7	5	12
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	2	—	2
Diarrhoea (under two years) ...	—	—	—
Appendicitis ...	1	—	1
Other digestive disorders ...	9	6	15
Nephritis ...	5	13	18
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ...	—	—	—
Other maternal causes ...	—	1	1
Premature birth ...	6	7	13
Congenital malformation, birth injury	—	—	—
infantile disorders ...	6	7	13
Suicide ...	4	1	5
Road Traffic Accidents ...	1	2	3
Other violent causes ...	8	3	11
All other causes ...	29	46	75
	243	250	493

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and case rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1946. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

Table III.

	England and Wales.	126 C.B.'s. and great towns including London	148 smaller towns Resident Pop. 25,000—50,000 1931 Census	London Adm. County.	Brierley Hill
		Rates per 1,000 civilian population			
Live Births ...	19.1*	22.2	21.3	21.5	20.04
Still Births ...	0.53*	0.67	0.59	0.54	0.71
<i>Deaths.</i>					
All Causes ...	11.5*	12.7	11.7	12.7	10.67
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.06
Diphtheria ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04
Influenza ...	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12	0.15
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles ...	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02

Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—

Deaths under 1 year of age	43†	46	37	41	46.43
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2	0.00

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

†Per 1,000 related births.

*Rates per 1,000 population.

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—

Notifications :					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.04
Scarlet Fever	1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42	1.10
Whooping Cough ...	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22	4.20
Diphtheria ...	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24	0.71
Erysipelas ...	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27	0.23
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles ...	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35	1.02
Pneumonia ...	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75	0.71

Table III.—continued.

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—

(a) Notifications :—

	England and Wales.	126 C.B's. and Great Towns including London	148 smaller towns Resident Pop. 25,000—50,000 1931 Census	London Adm. County.	Brierley Hill.
Puerperal Fever ...	8.50	10.35	7.63	1.62	4.17
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	9.68*	—

(b) Maternal Mortality in England and Wales :—

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis.	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other	Brierley Hill
0.13	0.06	0.18	1.06	1.04 (Total)

Abortion—Mortality per million women aged 15—45 in England and Wales :—

No. 140 with Sepsis.	No. 141 without Sepsis.	Brierley Hill.
11	5	0

*Including Puerperal Fever.

SECTION B.**GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.****Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.**

The Medical Officer of Health is also Assistant County Medical Officer for Staffordshire. This arrangement has many advantages, as it enables a proper integration of the Council's health functions with those services which are administered by the County Council. The Medical Officer also acts as Medical Superintendent for the Kingswingford Isolation Hospital of the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is also the Cleansing Superintendent. He is in charge of the administration of the Shops Acts, and also undertakes sampling work under the Food and Drugs Act, for which the Urban District Council is the Authority in this area.

He is assisted by three additional Sanitary Inspectors.

Two Veterinary Officers are employed by the Authority to inspect the meat at a large meat and bacon factory in the area.

Laboratory Facilities.

The County Laboratory at Stafford continues to deal adequately with the large number of pathological and bacteriological specimens sent from this area.

The chemical analysis of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act is undertaken by the County Analyst, who acts for the Urban District Council.

Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Depot is at Hawbush. Two ambulances and one car are provided by the Local Authority.

The following work was carried out during the year :—

Mileage	...	...	...	...	...	23,320
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	60
Maternity Cases	...	...	...	...	...	92
Admissions	...	...	...	...	...	399
Discharges	...	...	...	...	...	342
Removals	...	...	...	...	...	22
Treatment Cases	...	...	...	...	...	1,912

No charge is made to people resident in the Urban District. An ambulance service is provided for the Urban District of Amblecote and for part of the Rural District of Seisdon. A retaining fee and mileage charge is paid in each case.

Post Mortem Room.

22 bodies were brought to the post mortem room during the year. The causes of death were as follows :—

Natural Causes	...	...	...	13
Suicide	...	...	...	1
Misadventure	...	...	...	4
Accidental Death	...	...	...	4

The average length of stay was 3.8 days.

Nursing in the Home.

Five Nursing Associations at present operate in different parts of the district.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The County Council provide School Clinics ,Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics in the area. The particulars can be found in the Annual Reports of the appropriate Authority.

HOSPITALS.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

(1.) Infectious Diseases.

The area is served by the hospitals of the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board, situated at Kingswinford, Moxley, Bilston and Wombourne.

(2.) Small-Pox Hospital.

This hospital is situated at Moxley and is under the control of a Small-Pox Joint Hospital Board, of which Brierley Hill is a constituent Authority. This hospital has been taken over by the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board as a hospital for infectious diseases, and other arrangements have been made for Small-pox cases if they occur.

(3.) Sanatoria.

The County Council provide Sanatoria for women at Kinver and Groundslow, and for men at Prestwood. There is a children's sanatorium at Himley. Cases of surgical Tuberculosis are treated at Standon Hall and the Woodlands.

(4.) Orthopaedic.

The County have provided for the specialist treatment of these cases in special clinics and they are referred to hospital if they require inpatient treatment.

(5.) Wordsley Emergency Hospital.

This hospital is maintained by the County Council as a Grade I Emergency Hospital. It takes patients referred by the Public Assistance Committee.

(6.) Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are no nursing homes in the area.

The County Council provide maternity beds at Wordsley Hospital.

(7.) Other.

There are no other provided hospitals, but the following general hospitals are within easy reach of the Urban District :—

Corbett Hospital, Amblecote.

Guest Hospital, Dudley.

There are also the hospitals of Birmingham and Wolverhampton, all of which are within easy reach of the district.

SECTION C.**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.****Water Supply.**

The District is served by two Companies. The Stourbridge and District Water Board supply 1,725 houses at Wordsley, while the rest of the area is served by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. In both cases the supply comes from deep wells and bore holes in the New Red Sandstone to depths varying from 200 to 500 feet. The water is examined regularly and is of very good potable quality.

The following are typical analyses :—

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS CO.

Count. On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37 deg. cen.	... ..	24 colonies per ml.
On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20 deg.—22 deg. cen.	... ..	10 colonies per ml.
Coli Aerogenes Content (presumptive coli) after 48 hours' incubation at 37 deg. cen.	... ..	Nil per 100 ml.

	<i>Parts per 100,000.</i>
Total solid matter dried at 212 deg. F. ...	44.00
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil.
Albuminoid	0.0022
Nitric Nitrogen	1.25
Chlorine	4.6
Oxygen absorbed in four hours at 80 deg. F.	0.004
Appearance	Practically clear.
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None.
PH Value	7.0
Hardness before Boiling	18.84 deg.
Hardness after Boiling	10.40 deg.
Temporary Hardness	8.44 deg.

STOURBRIDGE AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD.

Count. On nutrient Agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37 deg. cen.	36 colonies per ml.
On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20 deg.—22 deg. cen.	15 colonies per ml.
Coli Aerogenes Content (presumptive coli) after 48 hours' incubation at 37 deg. cen. ...	Nil per 100 ml.

Parts per 100,000.

Total Solid Matter dried at 212 deg. F. ...	61.50
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil.
Albuminoid	0.0034
Nitric Nitrogen	1.43
Chlorine	6.5
Oxygene absorbed in four hours at 80 deg. F.	0.009
Appearance	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None
PH Value	7.1
Hardness before Boiling	29.0 deg.
Hardness after Boiling	13.2 deg.
Temporary Hardness	15.8 deg.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

The Surveyor states that no developments of note have occurred during the year.

Public Cleansing.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is also the Cleansing Superintendent. A report on the work will be found in his report.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The Architect and Housing Director has kindly supplied the following information for the year ended 31st March, 1947 :—

During the past year the number of dwellings for which direct tenders have been accepted by the Council has been 261. In addition offers for a further 68 have been accepted under the scheme whereby private builders build and sell to the Council making in all a total of 329 dwellings, for which the Council have accepted tenders during the past twelve months.

By April, 1946, tenders for 80 dwellings had been accepted and of these 50 have been completed and occupied, together with a further 70 temporary prefabricated bungalows which gives a total of 120 new dwellings occupied during the year.

Conversions providing accommodation for 11 families in flats have also been completed and the premises tenanted.

Layouts have been prepared for Market Street, Kingswinford, and Bell Street, Pensnett.

The Housing Committee investigated the possibility of permanent prefabricated houses, and accepted in principle the offer of the British Steel Construction Houses at the rate of 400 per year. The question of permanent prefabrication does not at present appear to be receiving the favourable consideration of the Ministry of Health and it would seem that there is little likelihood of the Council being able to proceed with a scheme of this nature at present.

There have been 34 pre-war houses vacated and re-occupied, 87 transfers of tenancies and 25 exchanges ; 1,104 investigations of applications for Council Houses ; and 408 Welfare Visits made during the past 12 months. Over 6,000 items of general repairs have been carried out by the Maintenance Staff following complaints by tenants. 360 houses have been decorated internally and 487 externally.

Following the Zonal Conference convened by the Ministry of Health at Dudley in February, the Council's programme for 1947 was limited to the extent that only a further 90 houses could

be put under construction during 1947. Representations were made to the Ministry and a deputation to the Regional Offices of the Ministry of Health was successful in obtaining consent to increase this number to 150.

For 110 of these Ministry approval has since been sought and the Housing Committee at their last meeting approved sites for the remaining 40. As however some of these houses will be of the Duplex type, in effect 150 houses will provide 188 dwellings.

The Council have been asked to provide accommodation for Miners and if available sites are approved by the Ministry of Health, Aluminium Temporary Bungalows will be allocated to these. This additional housing accommodation will be only available to Miners, but existing resident Miners as well as incoming Miners to the district will qualify for tenancies.

Every means whereby additional building labour can be introduced to housing work is now being pursued, in order that the Housing Programme may be developed to the utmost extent.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and other Foodstuffs.

Sampling was undertaken throughout the year by the Sanitary Inspectors. Particulars of the results will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

Meat.

Meat inspection occupied a great deal of the time of the Inspectors. Details are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Two Veterinary Officers are employed by the Council to inspect meat at a large meat factory in the area.

The Chief Veterinary Officer reports as follows:—

I beg to submit the annual report, showing the activities of the veterinary department during the year 1946.

The following tables show the meat condemned as unfit for human food, both home killed, and imported, as well as the percentage of diseases found in the various classes of animals.

Table IV. MEAT CONDEMNED 1946 — PIGS.

Disease.	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	Intestines	Other parts.
Tuberculosis	52	3798	1712	1704	1704	1033	469	113	3418	142 Fq. 8 Hqrs.
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	—	—	6135	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 Fqr.
Pericarditis...	—	—	—	1661	—	—	—	—	—	—
Endocarditis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis ...	—	—	—	16	1046	—	—	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts	—	—	17	3	49	—	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis	3	3	3	3	1554	3	3	6	52	—
Hydronephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4128	—	—
Bone Fractures	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fevered Flesh	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	3	3 Hrqs.
Pyæmia ...	1	2	2	1	5	1	1	2	1	8 Fq. 3 Hqrs.
Swine Erysipelas	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Fatty Infiltration	—	—	—	—	80	—	—	—	—	—
Empyæmia	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	4 Fqrs.
Bruising ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 Fq. 4 Hqrs.
Congestion ...	—	—	20	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Ascariæ ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Melanosis ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fasciololiasis	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Septicæmia	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Strongylosis	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jaundice ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Decomposition	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dead in transit	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	90	45	—
Dead in lairage	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	12	6	—
Total	118	3863	7955	3448	4507	1096	532	4367	3530	156 Fq. 18 Hqrs.

MEAT CONDEMNED 1946 — SHEEP.

Diseases	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	Intestines	Other parts
Muelleriasis	—	—	1545	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	1	1	108	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Pericarditis...	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts	—	2	526	55	586	—	1	—	—	2 Flanks. 1 Fqr.
Fascioliasis	—	—	—	—	2101	—	—	—	—	—
Pyæmia ...	1	7	5	6	5	1	3	2	1	7 Fqr. 5 Hqr. 7 Fqr.
Empyæmia	2	4	5	5	4	2	4	4	2	—
Melanosis ...	—	—	4	—	2	—	—	4	2	—
Oedema and emacn.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	—
Septicæmia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	—	1 Fqr. 1 Hqr.
Fractures ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Hydronephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fatty Infiltration	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Jaundice ...	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Fevered Flesh	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Dead in transit	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	5	—
Total ...	15	25	2204	87	2713	15	20	31	15	16 Fqr. 6 Hqr. 2 Flanks.

MEAT CONDEMNED 1946 — CALVES.

Diseases.	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	Intestines	Other parts.
Tuberculosis	5	11	19	19	21	6	18	10	5	—
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis...	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pyæmia ...	2	6	3	3	5	2	2	4	2	2 Hqrs.
Empyæmia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Jaundice ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Cirrhosis ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Peritonitis	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	—
Septicæmia	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Melanosis ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fatty Infiltration	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bruising ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 Hqr.
Dead in lairage	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	3	—
Total ...	13	25	37	34	39	16	28	32	15	3 Hqrs.

MEAT CONDEMNED 1946 — CATTLE.

Diseases.	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	Intestines	Other parts.
Actinobacillosis ...	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10 Tongues.
Actinomycosis ...	—	516	1099	420	218	159	174	260	465	204 Fqr. 13 Hqr. 24 Flanks
Tuberculosis ...	129	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 Fqr. 2 Fqr.
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	—	—	602	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis...	—	1	1	1	56	6	64	2	4	—
Peritonitis ...	1	—	276	—	151	—	3	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts ...	—	—	—	—	1464	—	—	—	—	—
Fascioliasis ...	—	—	—	—	51	—	—	—	—	—
Bact. Necrosis ...	—	—	—	—	101	—	—	—	—	—
Haemangioma ...	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—
Fatty Infiltration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Congestion ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 Fqr. 1 Hqr.
Fractures ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septicaemia ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Oedma and emacn.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Melanosis ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pyæmia ...	—	1	—	1	9	1	2	1	—	—
Mastitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	430 Udders
Jaundice ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Gangrene ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	5	—
Sarcome ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	7	—	—
Nephritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Bruising ...	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	—	2	—
Emphysema ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dead in transit	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Total ...	142	533	1992	456	2071	179	257	294	484	10 Tongues. 24 Flanks. 214 Fqrs. 18 Hqr. 430 Udders.

POST MORTEM EXAMINATIONS ON ANIMALS HAVING DIED A NATURAL DEATH.

Table V.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Cattle.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Pneumonia	—	1	3	6
Fascioliasis	—	—	1	—
Enteritis	—	—	1	1
Suffocation	—	—	—	1
Syncope	—	2	1	42
Peritonitis	1	—	1	1
Int. Haemorrhage	—	—	1	—
Entero-toxaemia	—	—	4	—
Ruptured Uterus	—	—	1	—
Anaemia	—	1	—	3
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	1
Total	1	4	13	55

The Imported meat, etc., condemned was as follows:—

	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Ozs.</i>
Stewed Steak	—	—	—	11	—
Luncheon Meat	—	—	—	4	8
Potted Meat	—	—	—	1	6
Sausage Meat	—	—	—	4	8
Spam	—	—	—	4	8
Anchovy Paste	—	—	—	—	3
Beans	—	—	—	3	13½
Ox Kidneys	—	1	3	—	8
Beef	—	9	—	—	—
Pork	—	—	—	26	—
Mutton	—	1	—	16	8
Bacon	—	—	3	14	4
Ham	—	—	—	2	4
Tongues	1	—	2	21	—
Meat and Vegetable	—	—	—	3	—
Corned Beef and Mutton	1	3	2	12	14½
Total	2	17	2	14	5

During the year material was supplied to the Department of Zoology, The University of Liverpool, and to the Pathological Department of the University of Birmingham School of Medicine.

TABLES SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF PATHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED IN THE COURSE OF MEAT INSPECTION.

Table VI.

PIGS.			CATTLE.		
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	...	7%	Fascioliasis	...	21%
Tuberculosis	...	5%	Tuberculosis	...	18%
Hydronephrosis	...	4%	Pleurisy and Pneumonia	...	8%
Pericarditis	...	2%	Mastitis	...	6%
Peritonitis	...	2%	Hydatid Cysts	...	4%
Cirrhosis	...	1%	Peritonitis	...	2%
Fatty Infiltration	...	.09%	Bacterial Necrosis	...	1%
Hydatid Cysts	...	.07%	Heamangioma	...	1%
Pyaemia	...	.02%	Pericarditis	...	.3%
Congestion	...	.02%	Pyaemia	...	.2%
Bruising	...	.006%	Actinobacillosis	...	.1%
Fascioliasis	...	.004%	Fatty Infiltration	...	.1%
Decomposition	...	.004%	Nephritis	...	.1%
Strongylosis	...	.003%	Bruising	...	.1%
Fevered Flesh	...	.003%	Gangrene	...	.07%
Fractures	...	.003%	Enteritis	...	.04%
Swine Erysipelas	...	.002%	Fractures	...	.04%
Empyema	...	.002%	Actinomycosis	...	.04%
Septicaemia	...	.002%	Congestion	...	.02%
Enteritis	...	.001%	Oedema and emaciation	...	.02%
Ascarides	...	.001%	Septicaemia	...	.01%
Melanosis	...	.001%	Melanosis	...	.01%
Jaundice	...	.001%	Sarcomata	...	.01%
Dead in transit	...	.05%	Emphysema	...	.01%
Dead in lairage	...	.006%	Gastritis	...	.01%
			Dead in transit	...	.01%
SHEEP.			CALVES.		
Fascioliasis	...	9%	Tuberculosis	...	0.4%
Muelleriasis	...	6%	Pyaemia	...	0.2%
Hydatid Cysts	...	2%	Pleurisy and Pneumonia	...	.1%
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	...	0.4%	Pericarditis	...	.08%
Pericarditis	...	.4%	Peritonitis	...	.06%
Pyaemia	...	.1%	Cirrhosis	...	.04%
Empysemia	...	.04%	Nephritis	...	.04%
Melanosis	...	.02%	Septicaemia	...	.04%
Oedema	...	.009%	Empyema	...	.02%
Fractures	...	.009%	Jaundice	...	.02%
Jaundice	...	.009%	Melanosis	...	.02%
Septicaemia	...	.004%	Fatty Infiltration	...	.02%
Hydronephrosis	...	.004%	Bruising	...	.02%
Fatty Infiltration	...	.004%	Died in lairage	...	.06%
Fevered Flesh	...	.004%			
Died in transit	...	.02%			

At the request of the Southern Counties Veterinary Society, a paper was read, and demonstration given, at an abattoir in Eastleigh, in November.

Table VII.—continued.

	Erysipelas.		Cerebro-Spinal Fever.		Other notifiable Diseases.	Original Notification.		Final Nos.	
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
Nos. originally notified :—									
Civilians (all ages) ...	3	8	1	1	Puerperal Pyrexia ... CIVILIANS.	—	4	—	4
Non-Civilians (all ages) ...	—	—	—	—	Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	1	1	1
Final Nos. after correction :—					Malaria (contracted in England and Wales) ...	—	—	—	—
Civilians { 0— ...	—	—	1	—					
5— ...	—	—	—	1					
15— ...	2	2	—	—					
45— ...	1	4	—	—					
65 and over ...	—	2	—	—					
Age N.K. ...	—	—	—	—					
Total Civilians ...	3	8	1	1	Puerperal Pyrexia ... NON-CIVILIANS.	—	—	—	—
Non-Civilians { 15— or N.K. ...	—	—	—	—	Malaria (contracted in England and Wales) ...	—	—	—	—
45 and over ...	—	—	—	—					
Total Non-Civilians ...	—	—	—	—					

Diphtheria.

34 notifications of Diphtheria were received during the year, compared with 106 in 1946. One of these on investigation proved to be tonsillitis.

The 33 confirmed cases give an attack rate of 0.71 per 1,000 population as compared with 1.93 for the previous year and 0.31 for 148 towns of comparable size.

Two deaths occurred during the year, giving a mortality rate of 0.04 per 1,000 population. One was a child of eleven months which died in another area, and one was an adult male. Both were unimmunised.

Six cases were notified in people who had been immunised. All made uneventful recoveries.

It can be deduced from the above figures that, in Brierley Hill during 1946 an unimmunised child who caught diphtheria was 74 times more likely to die from it than a child who had been protected.

Immunisation.

The routine immunisation or re-immunisation of entrants has been carried out during the year in the schools, while toddlers have been dealt with at the Infant Welfare Centres of the County Council. Birthday Cards are sent out and sweets are provided by the Council as agents for the County Council.

Press and Cinema publicity was used extensively in co-operation with the County Council.

The following figures show the results of these combined efforts :—

	<i>Under</i> 5 years.		5—14 years.		<i>Total.</i>
Number immunised during 1946	594	...	114	...	708

	At 31st Dec., 1945.		At 31st Dec., 1946.	
	Under 5 years.	5—15 years.	Under 5 years.	5—15 years.
Estimated population	4002	7149	4099	7139
Estimated percentage who had received complete course of immunisation	51.32	92.42	51.57	92.46

Number of children fully immunised at any time up to 31/12/46.

Year of Birth.	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1937—41	1932—46	Total.
No. immunised	—	383	589	501	585	3,205	3,354	8,717
Estimated mid-year population 1946		4,099				7,139		11,238

In addition to the above 354 children received a re-inforcing dose during 1946, making a total of 1,379 thus re-immunised up to the end of the year.

Scarlet Fever.

51 notifications were received during the year, giving a notification rate of 1.10 per 1,000 civilian population as compared with 1.50 for 1945 and 1.38 for the whole country.

The disease was mild in type.

Erysipelas.

11 cases were notified, giving a rate of 0.23.

Pneumonia.

32 cases were notified during the year. The notification rate is 0.71 compared with 0.89 for the country as a whole.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Four notifications were received during the year, giving a rate of 4.17 per 1,000 total births. The County Council provide consultant services and hospital treatment where necessary.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two notifications were confirmed giving a rate of 2.15 per 1,000 live births.

Whooping Cough.

There were 1,942 notifications as compared with 99 for the previous year. The notification rate of 4.20 compares with 2.28 for the whole country.

There were three deaths attributed to the disease.

Measles.

This disease was not prevalent. There were only 47 notifications compared with 901 for the previous year, giving a notification rate of 1.02 per 1,000 civilian population.

Scabies.

The Scabies clinic continued to hold two sessions weekly during the year.

74 patients attended, 50 of these being school children. They made 196 total attendances.

55 cases were informally notified 49 of these being school children.

Tuberculosis.

62 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were brought to notice by notification or otherwise. This gives an attack rate of 1.34 per 1,000 population. There were 11 new non-pulmonary cases.

The following table gives a summary of the register for 1946 :—

Table VIII.

	MALES.		FEMALES.		Total
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	
Number on register 1st January, 1946	160	60	163	50	433
New notifications 1946	22	3	33	7	65
Number restored to register having been removed in previous quarter	1	—	—	—	1
Cases brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification ...	3	1	4	—	8
Number removed from register 1946	20	4	19	2	45
Number on Register 31st December, 1946	166	60	181	55	462

Table IX.

AGE AND SEX OF NEW CASES AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS—1946.

Age.	New Cases.				Cases removed from register due to death.			
	Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.	
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary
0—1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—5	1	2	3	1	2	2	—	—
—15	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
—25	4	1	18	4	3	—	11	—
—35	5	—	8	—	—	—	3	—
—45	5	—	5	—	7	—	1	—
—55	6	—	1	—	3	—	1	—
—65	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
65 and over	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Total	25	4	37	7	17	2	16	1

Cancer.

There were 62 deaths from Cancer during 1946, giving a death rate of 1.34 per 1,000 population.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

I present herewith the Report on the work carried out in my Department during 1946.

The appointment of two additional Inspectors in December, 1945, gave opportunities during 1946 to bring up to date arrears of work on the districts. This, together with the clearing up of certain other duties such as billeting, etc., has meant a considerable increase in inspections. In all a total of 9,636 inspections and re-inspections were made during 1946.

One of the major difficulties was the repair of houses, shortages of labour and materials making the task one for patience and innumerable interviews with owners and builders. The amount of repairs carried out was considerable but the time spent in obtaining the results was four times that under normal conditions.

There is no doubt that owners of house property are passing through difficult times owing to the very high cost of repairs, and as no increase of rent is permitted under the Rent Restriction Act for repairs, one wonders what bearing this has on repair work generally. My view is that it is responsible to some degree for the position of housing repairs today.

The routine inspection of Council houses was transferred to the Housing Department in February, the Welfare Officer passing over also. It will be interesting to see whether the set up will give better results, or as good, as when the work was controlled in this Department.

Housing has become one of the major jobs of all authorities but I feel that sufficient notice is not being taken of the people who have lived in the condemned unfit houses since 1938/9. Conditions of some of these houses are deplorable—they are not fit for animals, let alone human beings, to live in. A percentage of new houses should be allocated to these people.

Salvage of waste materials has continued during the year and shewed a welcome improvement over 1945. There was again a surplus of income over expenditure.

1946 saw the commencement of the issue of building licences, the portion relating to houses already occupied, and not the subject of plans, being dealt with by my Department.

I would again refer to the help I have received from the Staff, all have shewn a readiness to meet the various difficulties that have arisen from day to day in a Department which is so very cosmopolitan.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, 1946.

(Houses other than Council Houses).

Housing				<i>Inspections.</i>		<i>Re- Inspections.</i>
Section 9	...	...	...	2	...	15
Section 11	...	...	...	15	...	29
Section 12	...	...	...	—	...	5
Other Visits	...	...	...	45	...	31
Clearance Areas	...	...	...	116	...	81

Public Health Acts.

Houses	...	...	...	996	...	3,233
Overcrowding	...	...	...	188	...	4
Water Supply	...	...	...	2	...	—
Schools	...	...	...	23	...	1
Entertainment Houses	...	...	...	10	...	3
Ashes Accommodation	...	...	...	68	...	121
Accumulations	...	...	...	20	...	1
Animals or Birds	...	...	...	2	...	1
Yards, Courts, etc....	...	...	...	4	...	—
Drainage Inspection	...	...	...	84	...	33
Drainage Tested	...	...	...	12	...	7
Water Closets, Wash Houses, etc.	...	...	...	28	...	—
Cesspools	...	...	...	6	...	—
Urinals	...	...	...	6	...	—
Sewers and Street Gullies	...	...	...	22	...	2
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	87	...	2
Rag and Bone Dealers	...	...	...	3	...	—
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	224	...	5
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	52	...	40
Rivers Pollution	...	...	...	10	...	3
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	27	...	9
Building Licences	...	...	...	292	...	214

Bye-Laws.

Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	98	...	27
Stable Premises	...	...	15	...	—
Piggeries	...	...	62	...	17
Slaughterhouses	...	...	269	...	—
Petroleum Act	...	...	8	...	3

Factory Act.					<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Re- Inspections.</i>
Factories	...	...	...	...	361	133
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	77	6
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	5	—

Food and Drugs Act.

Food Premises and Markets	...	...	...	...	415	30
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	84	7
Dairies	...	...	...	...	95	12
Cold Stores	...	...	...	...	5	—
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	175	29
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	75	8
Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	99	9
Interviews with Owners, etc., on property	...	...	...	...	671	1
Meat and Food Surrenders	...	...	...	...	55	1
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	809	47

Complaints.

396 complaints were received against 384 for 1945; 227 related to stoppages in drain pipes. All of these received immediate attention, a workmen from the Cleansing Department being sent to the property to relieve the nuisance.

169 of the complaints related to defective housing conditions, all of which were investigated and action taken where necessary.

During the year considerable difficulty was experienced due to the emission of grit and fumes from one Steel works in the area. Investigations disclosed that the fumes were due to the burning out of gas mains on a gas producer plant and foliage in an area surrounding the works was being badly burnt. This trouble had been experienced some years ago from the same installation and it was found that due to black-out restrictions certain alterations had been made in the methods of burning out. Improvements were made and the damage to plant life ceased.

Due to the amount of grit being discharged from the same Works, a special report was presented to the Public Health Committee who decided to call in an Engineer who also presented a special report. A deputation from the Committee visited the Works and saw the management who stressed the point that a Reconstruction Scheme was contemplated and that they could not see their way clear to make any alterations to the existing old plant but promised to take steps to minimize the nuisance during the period of reconstruction.

During the investigations of the damage to plant life it is interesting to note that after the alterations had been made to the plant, a complaint was received that grass on a lawn had been burnt, again alleged due to fumes from these works. This on investigation was found to be due to Leather Jackets.

The Ministry of Fuel and Power were asked also to give assistance in this matter but they stated that with the grade of fuel being used the plant was efficient.

A second complaint relating to the emission of very fine grit from another works was also investigated—this was found to be due to the use of pulverised fuel. After investigations, considerable improvement was noted in the emission of the grit from these works.

During the year considerable time was taken up with a survey of all steam raising apparatus throughout the area. Methods of firing and the various matters relating to the elimination of smoke and grit was discussed with the management and considerable improvements noted.

Infectious Disease Prevention.

89 visits were made to cases of infectious diseases including revisits; 86 houses were disinfected.

93 houses were dealt with for the elimination of bed bugs and the following table shews the work carried out in this direction :—

COUNCIL HOUSES.				OTHER HOUSES.			
Vermin.	No. of Houses Sprayed	No. of Sprayings	Vermin found.	Vermin.	No. of Houses Sprayed	No. of Sprayings	Vermin found
Bugs ...	78	129	31	Bugs ...	15	15	7
Crickets ...	1	1	—	Crickets ...	—	—	—
Cock-roaches	11	11	2	Cock-roaches	8	8	6
Ants ...	2	2	—	Ants ...	1	1	—
Fleas ...	3	3	—	Fleas ...	4	4	—
Total ...	95	146	33	Total ...	28	28	13

In a number of houses two or three sprayings were carried out during the year.

In all 174 sprayings were carried out.

**Sanitary Improvement Carried out as a Result of Inspections made
and Notices Served. (Work actually carried out).**

Dwelling-houses.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	143
House brickwork repointed	...	...	...	...	14
Gables, cement rendered	...	...	...	...	9
Chimney stacks repointed	...	...	...	...	23
Chimney pots provided and repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Detective brickwork of walls rebuilt	...	...	...	...	2
Dangerous walls rebuilt or repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Rainwater spouting repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	56

Walls and Ceilings :

Pasterwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	184
Walls and ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	122
New firegrates provided	...	...	...	...	3
Firegrates repaired	...	...	...	...	5
New doors provided	...	...	...	...	1
Doors and door frames repaired	...	...	...	...	17
New door sills provided	...	...	...	...	1
Latches provided	...	...	...	...	6
Door steps repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	13
New windows provided	...	...	...	...	2
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	80
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	105
Top sashes of windows hung	...	...	...	...	5
Window fasteners provided	...	...	...	...	41
New window casements provided	...	...	...	...	3
Windows made to open	...	...	...	...	7
Quarry floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	17
Living-room floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	17
Bedroom floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	28
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Hand rails on stairs provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Pantry floor repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Pantries limewashed	...	...	...	...	18
New covers to cellar lights provided	...	...	...	...	1
Cellar walls limewashed	...	...	...	...	1
Verandahs repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Dirty houses—tenant's neglect	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	1

Wash-houses, Water Closets, etc.

Wash-house roofs repaired	24
Wash-house doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Wash-house chimneys repointed or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	1

Wash-house windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	1
Wash-house floors repaired	...	...	...	5
Insanitary brick sinks demolished	...	...	...	1
New earthenware sinks provided	...	...	...	2
Water supply provided to sinks	...	...	...	6
Wash-houses limewashed	...	...	...	5
Washing boilers provided or repaired	...	...	...	9
Washing furnaces provided or repaired	...	...	...	7
Brickwork of washing boilers repaired	...	...	...	29
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	3
Water closet brickwork repaired or repointed	...	...	...	4
Water closet roofs repaired	...	...	...	4
Leaking W.C. joints repaired	...	...	...	7
Water closet floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	1
Water closet doors repaired	...	...	...	8
Water closet flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	22
Water closet pans provided	...	...	...	6
Water closet seats renewed	...	...	...	3
Rainwater spouting provided or repaired to wash-houses and W.C's.	...	...	...	3
Water closets limewashed...	...	...	...	2
Coal stores repaired	...	...	...	3
Yards paved or paving repaired	...	...	...	2
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	823
Dirty W.C. pans—tenant's neglect	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	1

Drainage.

New drainage laid	...	...	...	...	4
Houses provided with proper drainage	...	...	...	...	16
Obstructed drains cleared...	...	...	...	...	227
Drains repaired or reconstructed...	...	...	...	...	21
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	1
New covers provided to inspection chambers	...	...	...	...	1
Trapped drain inlets provided	...	...	...	...	2
Waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	18
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	1

Slaughterhouses.

Walls limewashed after notice	...	...	...	...	3
Lairage limewashed	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	3

Food Premises.

Food shops cleansed	...	...	...	...	6
Hot water supply provided	...	...	...	...	1
Fish Frying rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	3
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	1

Smoke Abatement.

Smoke nuisance remedied...	8
----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Shops Acts.

Forms required to be exhibited	...	...	...	...	1
Stores cleansed	...	...	...	...	1

Ice Cream Premises.

Sterilising apparatus provided	...	...	...	...	8
Separate rooms for manufacture	...	...	...	...	2
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	3
Hot water supply provided	...	...	...	...	28

Licensed Premises.

Sanitary conveniences limewashed	...	...	...	...	1
Sanitary conveniences not screened	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	3

Milk and Dairies.

Walls of cowsheds limewashed after notice	...	...	...	...	5
Dairies limewashed	...	...	...	...	3
Dirty cowsheds	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	1

Factories and Workshops.

Factories and workshops limewashed	1
W.C. or urinals limewashed	...	...	...	...	8
W.C's. repaired	...	...	...	...	13
Washing facilities provided	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	4

Bakehouses.

Limewashed after notice	2
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Other Nuisances.

Stables limewashed	...	...	...	...	1
Caravans removed	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulations of manure and other refuse removed	...	...	...	...	2
Piggeries cleansed	...	...	...	...	1

Letters and Notices sent out.

Preliminary notices and Housing Schedules	...	...	...	...	655
Letters	...	...	...	...	595

Statutory Notices.

Public Health Act, 1936 :

Section 39	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Section 45	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Section 75	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Section 93	...	...	...	...	...	...	98

Legal Proceedings.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

20 % deficient in Caffeine in Coffee and chicory Essence—
 Fined £10 0s. 0d. and 3 guineas costs.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

One house was represented as being unfit during the year and was dealt with by the Committee :—32, Park Road, Quarry Bank. Undertaking not to relet accepted.

There are many houses that have outlived their useful life which must be considered for demolition in the very near future, it is the shortage of houses that makes it impossible to move in this direction at present.

The attention of the Public Health Committee was called on two occasions to the fact that there were still nearly 200 houses occupied on which Demolition Orders are operative.

In addition attention has also been drawn to the number of cases of statutory overcrowding which have little chance of getting a house under the "points scheme". Unfortunately the floor area of rooms is not taken into account in assessing needs.

During the year three applications to re-open houses on which orders were operative were received, two being granted after temporary repairs had been carried out. One was refused. There are now fifteen houses opened under licence.

Overcrowding.

There still remains a considerable amount of overcrowding in the area, but sex-overcrowding cases have been somewhat reduced due to the fact that 100 pre-fabs were erected and let during the year.

Number of known statutory overcrowding cases, 1945	152
New cases	10
	<hr/>
Abated, 1946	162
	32
	<hr/>
Known cases December, 1946	130
	<hr/>

Council Houses.

As previously stated the transfer of the supervision of Council houses was effected in February, 1946, the following being a record of the work carried out to that date :—

Houses inspected	337
Houses re-inspected	24
Miscellaneous visits	32
Notices served on tenants	49

It should be placed on record that during the supervision by my Department all houses owned by this Authority were inspected at least once a year, and many, particularly the dirty tenants, were visited as frequently as monthly.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year 2,905 pigs were examined at the two bacon factories still remaining under my supervision and this total represents the whole of the animals slaughtered on the premises. 10.7 per cent. of these were found to be affected with tuberculosis. One whole carcass was condemned and 284 carcasses were affected with tuberculosis in some part or organ. The number in which some part or organ was affected with other diseases was 234.

In addition 747 pigs were examined on private premises against 518 for 1945.

The following is a list of foodstuffs condemned at the various shops :—

9 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Butter.
48 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Cheese.
70 lbs. Dates.
21 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Bacon.
48 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Raisins.
34 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Chocolates.
7 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Margarine
21 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Cornflour.
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Ground Coffee.
8 lbs. Sugar.
1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Apricots.

4 Boxes Prunes.
 149 Eggs.
 360 2 lb. White Loaves.
 24 Packets Sponge Mixture.
 47 Packets Yorkshire Pudding Mixture.
 67 Jars Piccalilli.
 71 Packets Chocolate.
 706 tins Miscellaneous Foodstuffs.

As far as possible the whole of these were utilised, either for fat rendering or for feeding of animals, so that very little was actually wasted.

The total weight of meat and food condemned (excluding tinned goods) was 1 ton 16 cwts. 3 qrs. 12 lbs.

No.	Article.	Formal	In-formal	Remarks.
15	Milk	14	1	Genuine
1	„ (Pasteurised)	1	—	Genuine
1	„ (Heat Treated	1	—	Genuine
1	„ (Sterilised)	1	—	Genuine
1	„	1	—	5.7% deficient in fat
1	„	1	—	3.3% deficient in fat
1	„	1	—	5.7% deficient in fat
1	„	1	—	Slightly deficient in fat—2.99% fat.
MISCELLANEOUS.				
55	Miscellaneous Foodstuffs	—	55	Genuine
1	Baking Powder	—	1	Deficient in Carbon Dioxide
1	Pickling Spice	—	1	Contained live acari
1	Coffee and Chicory Essence	—	1	40% deficient in Caffeine
1	Coffee and Chicory Essence	1	—	20% deficient in Caffeine
1	Coffee and Chicory Essence	1	—	0.20% Caffeine — 466 parts per million Benzoic Acid. Legal proceedings.
1	Real Egg Self Raising Flour	—	1	46.8% deficient in Dried Egg Powder
1	Ready Mixed Mustard	—	1	Contains 5% Sodium Chloride
1	Coffee and Chicory Essence	—	1	0.20% Caffeine — 619 parts per million Benzoic Acid
1	Red Colouring	—	1	Did not comply with Food Labelling Order

Legal proceedings were taken against the Wholesaler of the Coffee and Chicory Essence, but whilst the proceedings were pending the bottle containing the third sealed sample cracked and another formal sample had to be taken.

The informal sample of Real Egg Self Raising Flour showed a deficiency of 46.8 % in Dried Egg Powder. It was not possible to obtain a formal sample of this mixture as the whole of the stock had been sold.

The attention of the Manufacturers was called to the fact that a sample of Ready Mixed Mustard contained 5 % Sodium Chloride and that this ingredient was not disclosed on the label. A copy of the label was submitted to the Ministry of Food Labelling Department for observations, but no satisfactory reply was ever received.

Milk.

In the cases of the three milks which showed deficiencies in fat, two of the samples were as taken from the cows and consequently no proceedings were taken.

One sample showed a deficiency of 5.7 % in fat and was from a producer outside the area. Further samples were taken by the County authorities.

During the year 37 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and set out below is a table showing the analysis of results :—

Plate Counts in 1 c.c.				B. Coli content in			
Under 30,000	30,000 to 200,000	200,000 to 500,000	Over 500,000	Nil.	1/10th c.c.	1/100th c.c.	1/1000th c.c.
10	6	4	4	3	2	8	3

Samples were also submitted as follows :—

Methylene Blue Test : 30 satisfactory—2 unsatisfactory.

Phosphatase Test : 29 satisfactory.

In addition six samples of milk produced in this area were submitted for examination for the detection of Tuberculosis ; these gave negative results.

The organism of *Brucella Abortus* was isolated from one sample of milk. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was notified.

Number of samples of " School milk " were taken and as a result there was considerable improvement in the milk supplied to schools.

During the year twenty samples of ice cream were submitted for chemical analysis and the following table shows the result :—

Non fatty Solids	Fat	Total Solids
%	%	%
23.28	0.42	23.7
11.95	4.65	16.6
12.88	2.82	15.7
12.82	9.88	22.71
17.15	4.18	21.33
14.81	1.88	16.69
19.93	1.87	21.8
17.06	1.94	19.0
18.70	1.30	20.0
16.12	1.98	18.1
20.69	0.51	21.2
23.3	10.20	33.5
17.95	4.75	22.7
5.86	13.04	19.9
18.95	0.65	19.4
21.82	3.28	25.1
22.36	3.54	25.9
21.19	6.71	29.0
25.92	2.48	28.4
23.9	11.40	35.3

After the Public Health Committee had considered these results it was decided to make representations to the Ministry of Food that a standard for ice cream should be set, the Ministry's reply was that owing to the restriction in the materials available for the manufacture of ice cream, the present time was not opportune.

In view of the results set out in the foregoing table it is difficult to follow this argument as they are so varied, the fat varying from 0.42 % to 13.04 %. It would appear from these results when the demand for ice cream is great that a bigger volume of ice cream is made by some manufacturers from the same quantity of controlled ingredients.

Actually in one case it was found that the margarine which was being allowed by the Ministry of Food for the manufacture of ice cream was not being used.

In addition 49 samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination, the following are the results :—

Plate counts in 1 c.c.				B. Coli content in			
Under 30,000	30,000 to 200,000	200,000 to 500,000	Over 500,000	Nil	1/10th c.c.	1/100th c.c.	1/1000th c.c.
14	15	9	11	17	9	3	20

As the result of a complaint made that ice cream manufactured in this area showed signs of contamination, 8 samples of the ingredients used by the manufacturer were submitted for bacteriological examination. It was found that the source of contamination was the concentrated essence used for flavouring the ice cream, which was added after the ice cream had been pasteurised and cooled. This practice was stopped.

At the end of the year the following premises were registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream :—

19 premises for manufacture and sale.

24 premises for storage and sale.

In all cases before registration, proper means for sterilisation of utensils had to be made and where the ice cream was manufactured a separate room, with hot and cold water laid on, had to be provided.

Food Premises.

During the year the following new premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—

Manufacture of faggotts	...	...	...	...	2
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	7
Manufacture of Sausage, Brawn, etc.	...	...	...	...	2

making a total of 13 premises on the register.

Milk and Dairies.

The following are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-1943 :—

Dairymen	...	...	...	...	...	34
Retail Purveyors of Bottled Milk	...	...	...	...	...	250

There are seventeen cowsheds in the area ; these are in fair condition.

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1942 :—

Supplementary :—

Tuberculin tested	...	...	...	...	3
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	3

Slaughterhouses.

There are 20 slaughterhouses in the area, four of these only are in use at the present time.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

There are 63 slaughtermen licensed to carry out the work of slaughtering. Three men were licensed during the year.

Water Supply.

During the year the attention of the Council was drawn to the fact that water supply to five houses in Forge Lane, Wall Heath, which was by means of shallow wells was polluted. In order that a pipe supply could be provided to these houses a new main was required to be laid.

At the end of the year no steps had been taken either by this Authority or the Water Company to provide the main.

In addition the question of the extension of a main to two other houses was under consideration at the end of the year.

Five samples of drinking water were taken and submitted for chemical and bacteriological analysis as follows :—

Main supply	...	...	...	...	...	3
Shallow wells	...	...	...	...	...	2

These samples were certified as being satisfactory for drinking purposes.

In addition two samples of water were taken from brook courses in the Quarry Bank area and tested for acid pollution. One of the samples was certified as containing 36.5 parts per 100,000 of acid and representations were made to a Galvanising Works for steps to be taken to neutralise all acid before discharge into the water course. The necessary work was under consideration at the end of the year.

The other sample showed no trace of acid.

FACTORIES.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of	
		Inspections	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with Mechanical Power ...	141	494	—
Factories without Mechanical Power ...	120	83	—
Other premises under the Act (in- cluding works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers premises) ...	18	—	—
Total	279	577	—

Defects found.

Particulars.	Number of defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prose- cutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate temperature	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage to floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient	4	4	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	9	10	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Total	16	17	—	—

Thirteen notices were received from H.M. Inspector of factories relating to insanitary conditions and these had attention.

Two outworkers lists were received notifying ten outworkers.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The following is a list of the work carried out under this Act :—

Area.	No. of premises.	No. of visits.	Pre-baits.	Poison Baits.
Brierley Hill and Brockmoor ...	76	123	13	5
Quarry Bank	2	3	3	—
Wordsley	30	55	37	13
Kingswingford and Wall Heath ...	97	150	96	37
Pensnett	42	198	84	38
Total	247	529	233	93

The owners of 35 industrial premises requested this Authority to carry out disinfection work at their works, the amount charged to these concerns being £150 0s. 6d.

Two sewer treatments were carried out during the year. Prisoner of War labour was employed for two months in the work.

Number of manholes baited	...	...	...	119
Number of pre-bait takes	...	...	...	27
Number of " C " takes	...	...	...	2

Assistance was given to one neighbouring Authority who had no Rodent Operative.

Private Dwellings (Special Scheme).

In June the Council had under consideration a request from the Ministry of Food for the Authority to join in a special scheme dealing with rat infestation at Private Dwellings, and after consideration this Authority decided to join, two operatives being engaged and trained. At the end of the year about three quarters of the area had been surveyed and rat infestations dealt with.

Shops Acts.

There are 706 shops on the register.

Petroleum Act.

There are 98 licensed premises to store petroleum spirit in the area, the total amount licensed being 88,200 gallons. Licence fees amounted to £59 5s. 0d.

In addition four licences to store Calcium Carbide were issued ; total amount 15,904 lbs ; licence fees £2 5s. 0d.

TOWN AMBULANCE.

The Staff employed for this work is three male drivers and two female driver attendants, four vehicles being in use as follows :

- 1 Morris Ambulance.
- 1 Hillman Ambulance.
- 1 Lanchester Car.
- 1 Wolseley Car.

At the end of the year the Lanchester car was out of action due to parts not being available.

The work carried out has increased considerably over 1945, the total number of patients dealt with being 2,827, an increase of 902 ; mileage 23,300 against 16,962. On the whole the service (which is free) appears to be much appreciated, although there was a very slight tendency for the car service for sitting cases to be abused. Ninety of the cases dealt with were for outside authorities as follows :—

Seisdon R.D.C.	...	...	...	...	...	42
Amblecote U.D.C.	...	...	...	...	...	32
Halesowen Borough	...	...	...	...	...	1
Staffordshire County Council	...	...	...	...	...	15
						<hr/> 90 <hr/>

H. J. PARKER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This section of the Report is dealt with up to the 31st March, 1947.

Staff.

The work carried out by this Department covers the collection of House Refuse and Disposal, Salvage, Street Sweeping, Street Gully and Cesspool emptying and the cleansing of Public Conveniences, the following staff being employed :—

			H.R.C.		
			<i>Sweeping, etc.</i>		<i>Salvage.</i>
Men ...	...	...	30	...	4
Women ...	...	...	—	...	8
Boys ...	...	...	1	...	1

Staff difficulties were acute owing to the number of "old hands" leaving for better paid jobs, and consideration was given to the employment of German Prisoners of War on the collection of House Refuse but the necessary permission could not be obtained.

Towards the end of the year it was possible to obtain a number of suitable men.

Vehicles.

Two new vehicles were received, the following being a list of vehicles operated by the Department :—

1 S.D. Freighter (11 cubic yards).

3 S.D. Freighters (7 cubic yards).

1 S.D. Gully/Cesspool Emptier—dual purpose body (7 cubic yards).

2 Morris (2 ton and 1 ton).

1 Ford (1 ton).

1 Lewin Road Sweeper Collector.

1 Horse Vehicle.

The 11 cubic yard freighter was delivered in November, 1946, and the Lewin Road Sweeper in August, 1946.

Collection.

Refuse from all ashbins continued to be removed fortnightly throughout the area in spite of illness and shortage of staff. This was only possible by using all available strength including the few remaining fit road sweepers.

The question of a weekly collection has been under consideration at various times but manpower did not allow. During the year a special report was presented on the possibility of an incentive bonus being paid to the collectors, but the difficulties were so great when examined in detail that it was found impossible to bring into operation such a scheme which would be fair to all workpeople.

The few remaining privy middens are emptied at three monthly intervals.

The following Table shows the loads moved by the various vehicles :—

Vehicle.	Number of Loads.					Total
	Bins.	Fixed Receptacles	Cesspools	Trade	Ashes from Sand-field	
S.D.1. ...	392	7	—	19	24	442
S.D.2. ...	1,420	—	—	—	—	1,420
S.D.3. ...	1,453	—	—	—	7	1,460
M.C.4. ...	99	15	—	14	168	296
S.D.5. ...	323	6	217	18	25	551
S.D.9. ..	525	—	—	—	—	525
Horse Vehicle	—	306	—	67	—	373
Total 1946	4,212	334	217	118	224	5,067
Total 1945	3,778	383	263	247	189	4,740

Owing to the difficulty in the replacement of ash bins numbers were sold to owners. In all 823 ash bins were supplied by this Department to owners and to houses owned by the Council. All were of a standard type and galvanised.

The attention of this Authority was drawn to Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which states that Local Authorities may provide and maintain dustbins, for the reception of house refuse in lieu of owners or occupiers. There are many advantages in the adoption of this Section from a sanitary point of view, but unfortunately when this matter was considered from the financial aspect the Public Health side was lost sight of and the scheme was turned down.

Disposal.

The whole of the house refuse collected together with all road sweepings is taken and disposed of by tipping to the Leys Disposal ground. This ground, which is part of an estate of some 58 acres, was purchased in 1939 for refuse disposal and has proved its value.

Three men are employed on disposal work, tipping being controlled with the exception that it has not been possible to cover the refuse with the required depth of covering material.

All refuse taken to the disposal ground is weighed before tipping, the following being the tonnage :—

House refuse	...	...	...	12,514
Road Sweepings	...	...	...	649

13,163 tons

Table shewing the costs for the year ended 31st March, 1947.

Particulars.				Collection	Disposal	Collection and Disposal
Revenue Account				£	£	£
Gross Expenditure	...			8,724	875	9,599
Gross Income	...	...		506	157	663
Net Cost	...	...	...	8,218	718	8,936
Unit costs.				s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Gross expenditure	per					
ton	...	...	...	13 11½	1 5	15 4½
Gross Income per ton	...			9½	3	1 0½
Net cost per ton	...	...		13 2	1 2	14 4
Net cost per 1,000 popu- lation	...	...	...	178	15	193
				£	£	£
Net cost per 1,000 houses or premises from which refuse is collected	...	...		613	54	667
Total refuse collected (actual)				...	...	12,514 tons.
Population (Midsummer)				...	...	46,190
Area (Statute acres)				...	...	5.932
Weight per 1,000 population per day				...	...	15 cwt.
Number of houses and premises				...	...	13,400
Rateable Value				...	...	£176,359
Product of 1d. Rate				...	...	£687
Rate in £ (Collection and Disposal)				...	...	1s. 1d.

Vehicles are included under Gross Expenditure collection at a daily rate, which amount includes running costs, petrol, oil and depreciation.

Street Cleansing.

With the arrival of the Lewin Sweeper Collector in August, 1946, a distinct improvement was made on the road surfaces generally. This vehicle had been on order since March, 1945.

In fact the Public Health Committee after quite a short experience with the machine placed an order for a second one.

The amount of channels swept daily varies from 15 to 20 miles—two machines will enable the whole of the streets which are curbed and channelled to be swept at least once weekly.

The machines will replace 12 hand sweepers.

Loads of sweepings removed by				
Mechanical Sweeper (August				
—March)	...	...	...	230
Loads removed by Horse vehicle	...			506

Gully Cleansing.

There are 1,410 street gullies all of which are emptied at regular intervals by mechanical means. In all, 3,488 cleansings were effected and 206 loads removed.

Cesspools.

The number of cesspools cleansed during the year was 181, 217 loads being removed.

Public Conveniences.

There are seven for males and three for females in the area, all receiving daily attention. The amount of misuse and damage to these places has increased out of all proportion over pre-war years, one is amazed at the mentality of the perpetrators.

The sum of £10 13s. 8d. has been collected during the year.

Salvage.

A fortnightly collection of salvage was maintained and there was an improvement in the amounts returned to industry, the total being 848 tons, an increase of 93 tons over 1945. Waste paper increased by 19½ tons and Kitchen Waste by 65 tons.

In order to encourage householders to save waste paper 7,000 sandbags were distributed throughout the area. At the same time publicity was given to the need for saving waste paper by the exhibition of slides and films at all cinemas in the district.

An electric baling press was ordered in March, 1946, this had not been delivered at the end of the year.

The question of the collection of waste food from communal street bins was considered during the year and it was decided to commence with the purchase of 500 small waste food containers of three gallon capacity, for distribution to householders who would agree to keep waste food for this Authority. These were placed out in one part of the area after a canvass had been made. The canvass revealed that at least 55 % of the householders were either using waste food for pigs or poultry, or giving it to neighbours. Collection from these containers is weekly, the average collection per house per week being 5 lbs.

There are, in addition, 301 communal waste food bins placed in the streets. These are emptied twice weekly.

The following are the weights and values of the materials salvaged during the past seven years, 1st April, 1940, to 31st March, 1947 :—

	1940 Tons	1941 Tons	1942 Tons	1943 Tons	1944 Tons	1945 Tons	1946 Tons
Paper	317½	371	365	309½	310¾	225½	245
Tins	213	155½	216	174½	129	122	149½
Metal	100	74½	92	37	24½	42½	52
Broken Glass, Jars and Bottles	77	102¾	190½	167	130	110	88½
Condemned Meat	1½	1½	2½	1½	1½	1½	1
Household Bones	8	8	13½	14	15	8½	8½
Textiles	20½	38	36	34	25½	18½	12½
Kitchen Waste	58½	303½	332	400½	320	226½	291½
Rubber and Batteries	—	11¼	16	22	2½	—	—
Totals	796	1,066	1,263½	1,160	958½	755	848½
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Paper	1,352	1,606	2,448	2,467	2,301	1,866	1,860
Tins	293	252	439	273	231	217	244
Metal	231	234	283	94	81	148	124
Broken Glass, Jars and Bottles	169½	447	780	639	447	460	487
Condemned Meat and Household Bones	32	45	54	66	65	45	47
Textiles	90	247	624	499	438	278	271
Kitchen Waste	89	510	540	595	483	339	483
Rubber and Batteries	3	12	33	43	11	8	5
Total	2,259½	3,353	5,201	4,676	4,057	3,361	3,521

In addition collection allowances of £220 were received via the Ministry of Supply, £161 being for Kitchen Waste and £59 for Waste Paper.

The following is the statement of expenditure and income for the year ended 31st March, 1947 :—

EXPENDITURE.				INCOME.			
			£				£
Salaries and Wages	...	...	1,576	Waste Paper	...	...	1,860
Superannuation	...	...	47	Textiles	...	...	271
Repairs and Maintenance of				Bottles, Broken Glass, etc.	...	...	487
Buildings	...	...	37	Scrap Metal	...	...	124
Haulage	...	...	888	Tins	...	...	244
Materials and other Expenses			592	Bones	...	...	47
Equipment Purchased	...	...	276	Kitchen Waste	...	...	483
Income over Expenditure	...	...	325	Batteries and Tyres	...	...	1
				Sundries	...	...	4
				Ministry of Food—Collection			
				Allowances —			
				Kitchen Waste	...	...	161
				Waste Paper	...	...	59
Total	...	...	3,741	Total	...	...	3,741

H. J. PARKER,

Cleansing Superintendent.



